

04/08

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

REC'D 13 MAY 2005

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

WIPO

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220**FOR FURTHER ACTION**
See paragraph 2 belowInternational application No.
PCT/NL2005/000032International filing date (day/month/year)
17.01.2005Priority date (day/month/year)
23.01.2004International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
E01H1/10Applicant
JADON

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl
Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

Authorized Officer

Movadat, R

Telephone No. +31 70 340-4006



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/NL2005/000032

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/NL2005/000032

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43b/s.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-17
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-17
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-17
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or Industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

- 1.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

EP-A-1314823, cf. fig.1, discloses an apparatus for cleaning surfaces comprising a mobile support structure for a supply container (19), a plurality of spray nozzles (25) and a high pressure pump (44) able to spray the floor to be cleaned with sprayed water between 300 and 750 bar (par. [0022]).

An alternative embodiment for removing chewing gum is disclosed, wherein steam instead of water is produced to clean the surface, cf. [0013], a minimum temperature of 115°C thereby being inherently disclosed.

The subject-matter of claim 1 therefore differs from this known cleaning apparatus in that a front and a rear spray unit is provided.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as to increase the efficiency of the cleaning action.

- 1.2 The solution proposed in claim 1 of the present application cannot be considered as involving an inventive step. Indeed, a similar apparatus for cleaning surfaces has been disclosed in DE-A-4404230, cf. fig.1, showing a spray unit consisting of a front and a rear part. It would appear obvious to the skilled person to substitute such a spray arrangement in EP-A-1314823 thus arriving without the exercise of an inventive skill at cleaning apparatus according to present claim 1.

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 14,15

The same reasoning applies, mutatis mutandis, to the subject-matter of the corresponding independent claims 14,15 which therefore are also considered not inventive.

3 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-17

Dependent claims 2-17 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step, see the documents and the corresponding passages cited in the search report.